

PRAYERS FOR A SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

A Prayer of Thanksgiving for Children

Thank you for the lives of the children in our care and in our prayers.
Thank you for their hope and joy. Thank you for your guidance in their lives.
Protect their minds, watch over their hearts, and lead them to great adventures.

A Nicaraguan Grace for a Meal

O God bless this food we are about to receive.
Give bread to those who hunger,
and hunger for justice to those of us who have bread.

A Muslim Grace before Dinner

In the name of God, the most Merciful the Beneficent.
O Nourisher and Provider of all things.
We offer our thanks and gratitude for this food,
and for those who prepared it.
In a world where so many are hungry,
may we eat this food with humble hearts.

A Native American Grace

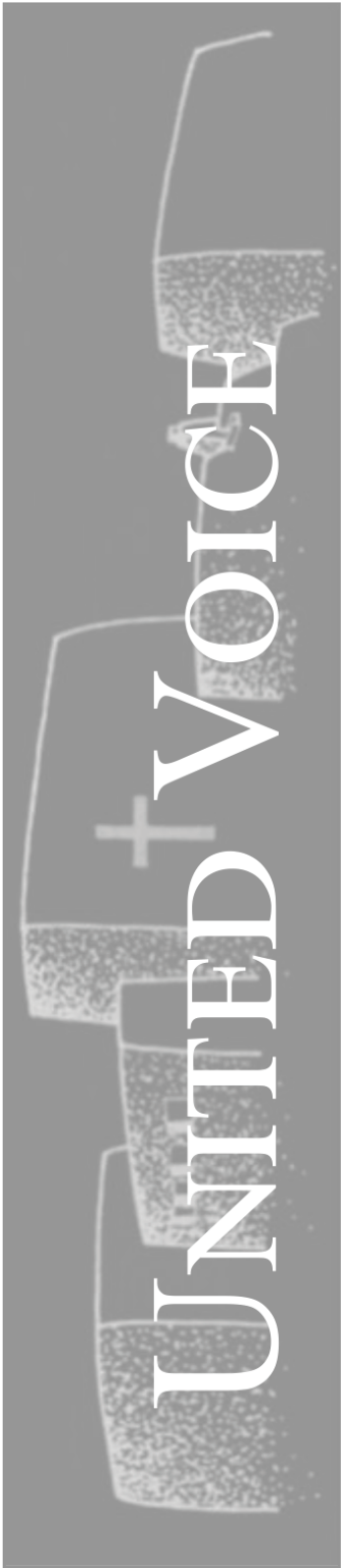
We thank Great Spirit for the resources that made this food possible;
we thank the Earth Mother for producing it,
and we thank all those who labored to bring it to us.
May the wholesomeness of the food before us,
bring out the wholeness of the Spirit within us.

A Prayer of Thanks for It All

Abide

Forgive me if I forget
with the birdsong and the day's
last glow folding into the hands
of the trees, forgive me the few
syllables of the autumn crickets,
the year's last firefly winking
like a penny in the shoulder's weeds,
if I forget the hour, if I forget
the day as the evening star
pours out its whiskey over the gravel
and asphalt I've walked
for years alone, if I startle
when you put your hand in mine,
if I wonder how long your light
has taken to reach me here.

(The poet Jake Adam York died of a stroke in 2012, when he was only 40. His prayer poem calls to mind the hymn "Abide with Me," a prayer for constancy: "In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.")



UNITED VOICE

Monthly publication

United Church of Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

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UNITED CHURCH
OF SANTA FE
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Moderator of the Congregation

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Tracy & Ed Church
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**Covenant of
The United Church of Santa Fe**

In the Lord's name we gather together
here in Santa Fe
to worship and grow in the Christian
tradition,
to minister in love to all persons,
to strive for justice and peace,
to respond to God's word.

We celebrate the heritage of Santa Fe
and give ourselves to its challenges
and opportunities.

We endeavor to live in harmony with all
creation as stewards of the earth.

We share in the life and mission of the
United Church of Christ and of
Christians everywhere.

To these purposes we unite and
covenant with God and one another,
watchful for the guidance
of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

"Hope begins," writes Steven Charleston, "when we make room for the Spirit in our lives."

The Choctaw Elder and Episcopal Bishop continues, "Only a small space will do. With just a tiny foothold the sacred can put down deep roots and begin to grow into every aspect of our lives."

"Where there was fear," he affirms, "confidence begins to bloom. Where there was anger, harmony weaves a vine of love reality. Where there was confusion, clarity emerges like wildflowers."

"Hope becomes an organic part of our existence" he concludes, "because it embodies irrepressible life: an urge to **become** that will not be denied."

Charleston knows a lot about hope. His Choctaw people survived the Trail of Tears, "the end of the world," as he described that terrible time. Growing up in Oklahoma and then going to Boston for seminary, he was the only Native American in his class and often the only Native American among his clergy colleagues. In his own life and in his ministry as the Episcopal Bishop of Alaska, he knows the toll that racism and poverty take on one's soul.

But most of all, Charleston knows the tenacity and power of hope. "With just a tiny foothold," he affirms, "hope can take root. It can become "an organic part of our existence—because it embodies irrepressible life: an urge to **become** that will not be denied."

The United Church of Santa Fe knows about the power and tenacity of hope, too. For over four decades, this congregation has had an irrepressible "urge to become." To become a strong and faithful community of hope for all who come through the doors. To become a community that loves God by loving our neighbor and God's creation. To be a place of learning and growth for all ages. To create a community of welcome, by opening our hearts and expanding our ministries.

Over the last 45 years, United has gone through a lot of building projects (5, at last count 😊). We've built (and then expanded) the Sanctuary, plus the Learning Center, Nurture Center, Community Room, Youth Room, Education wing, and landscaping with gardens, fountains, and a Reflection Trail all around the church. We've built and re-built our ministries with children and youth, and gradually built our music ministry, too, that started with an out-of-tune piano and some dedicated volunteers to a full staff, a Steinway that stays in tune, and a whole lot of dedicated volunteers.

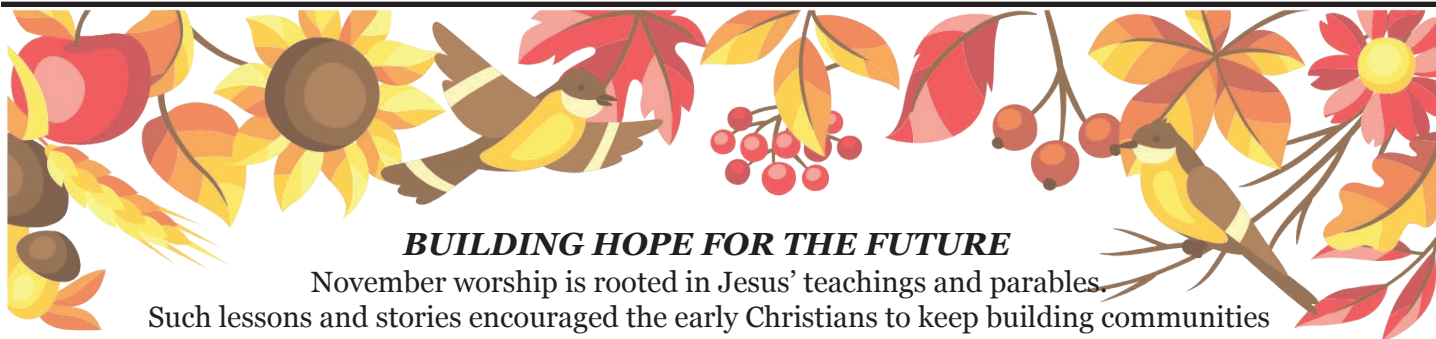
When the pandemic hit, we built a "virtual church" that kept us united (even apart). And over the past 5 years, we've built a hybrid church, that combines the on-site congregation with the virtual one. Lots and lots of building projects.

But what we've built the most at United—and through United—is **hope**, Charleston's deep-rooted hope. Hope for ourselves and for this world that God so loves. Hope for our neighbors throughout Santa Fe and around the world. Hope for all ages and hope for generations yet to come.

God has empowered United to build lot of different things over the last 4 1/2 decades. Most of all, God has called us to **build hope**, year after year, generation after generation. That's still our call.

Blessings,

Worship in November



BUILDING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

November worship is rooted in Jesus' teachings and parables.

Such lessons and stories encouraged the early Christians to keep building communities of hope and faith, even in the shadow of Roman oppression. Jesus' words speak to our time, too. After Thanksgiving, we start a new year as we begin Advent's journey to the birth of hope and joy in our world.

8:30 Contemplative Communion | 10:00 Sanctuary Service with Choir
Online services continue, too!

Who Has Blessed Us? | November 1—All Saints Sunday – Wear Red!

The Gospel text is the opening of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5:1-12)—the seven blessings known as the "Beatitudes." Blessed are those who know their need of God. Blessed are the gentle. Blessed are those who seek peace – and justice. Who has offered us such blessings in our lives or for this world? A good text for All Saints Sunday (wear red 😊).

Tending Hope's Light | November 8

"Keep Your Lights Trimmed and Burning" is an African American Spiritual based on Jesus' parable about ten bridesmaids, five who were ready, five who weren't. (Matthew 25:1-13) The enslaved Africans sang it when they gathered for worship. They also sang it to share secret news of the Underground Railroad. Either way, it called people to tend God's light, even in the most shadowed of times. It still does.

Welcoming New Members | Sunday, November 8

On the second Sunday of November, we welcome new members into the United Church of Santa Fe. If you are interested in "officially" joining United, please speak with Rev. Talitha Arnold or Discipleship Chair Diane Darby. Thank you!

Hope Abounding | November 15 – Stewardship Sunday

A "talent" was the largest currency in the Roman Empire, about 70 pounds of gold or silver. In Jesus' "Parable of the Talents," five servants are given differing amounts of the coinage. One buries his talent in the ground—because he is afraid. What do we do with what we have—be it money or the other gifts of our lives? Is it fear that drives our decisions? Or faith?

God of All Hopefulness | November 22 – Thanks-Singing Sunday

A lot may happen between now as we plan our Thanks-Singing service. Even more may happen from the time you read this newsletter and when we gather to sing our thanks and praise. One thing is constant—the One to whom we sing is the God of All Hopefulness—for us and for this world.

What (or Who) Do We Hope For? | November 29 – First Sunday of Advent

The color changes to purple and the music to a minor key as we start to prepare for the coming of Christ. Who is this Christ for who we wait? Who or what are we hoping for? The four candles of the Advent Wreath remind us each Sunday of that hope—for peace, for hope, for joy and for love.

Music

Michelle Schumann, Director of Music / Pianist

The Sanctuary Choir hit the ground running this fall! In particular, United welcomed three new musicians to the church's music ministry, and I couldn't be more happy! Our new Choral Scholars are tenor Nathaniel Corthell, a freshman Vocal Performance Major at UNM, and soprano Emma Daves, who earned her Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Western Ontario (Canada) and a Graduate Certification from UNM. They join Choral Scholars Javier Ortiz, baritone, a seasoned professional singer, engaged regularly throughout New Mexico and the US, and Heather Lacy, with the wonderful flexibility to lead both alto and soprano sections. With her Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College, she'll also serve as United's Assistant Conductor.



We're also pleased that John Tiranno is United's new Choral Director. John's been involved in choral music as a choir member, section leader, soloist, and conductor with multiple churches and orchestral ensembles (inc. the New York Philharmonic and the Vienna Philharmonic). He also conducts

Santa Fe's Zia Singers, the choirs at Gonzales Community School, and served as substitute conductor for the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis. Welcome to all of United's stellar new musicians!

November is a great month musically in worship, with All Saints Day (Nov. 1—one of my favorite Sundays), "Thanks-Singing" Sunday (Nov. 22), and First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 29). Whether in the choir or the congregation, join in the singing!

United Goes to *Messiah* Sunday, Nov. 22, 4:00 pm

We've ordered 15 tickets for United members and friends for the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus' concert of George Frederick Handel's *Messiah*. United's Dana Bender, Elizabeth Roghair, and Talitha Arnold are singing. Interested? Please sign up or call the church office (988-3295) by Monday, Nov. 9.

Children & Youth

Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministry

Kids United (1st through 5th graders) Sunday mornings during 10:00 Service



We started the fall focused on "blessing and letting go." We looked to caterpillars and the blessings they experience as they transform into butterflies. We explored how we are blessed and bestow blessings on others.

We then explored how our church community remembers ordinary people who've impacted our lives. Leading up to **All Saints Sunday** (Nov. 1), we will build an "ofrenda"—an altar with pictures of beloved family, friends, or pets who are no longer with us.

Through November, we're preparing for the 4th Sunday of Advent (Dec. 20) when the Youth Group leads worship—and that younger children will also share in. (More info soon).

What's Happening in November

- **Nov. 1 - All Saints Sunday** – Blessing the Ofrenda.
- Nov. 8 & 15 - Getting ready to lead worship in Advent (learning songs, sharing what we're waiting for, etc.)
- Nov. 22 - Thanks-Singing Sunday! Everyone—kids, youth, adults—singing together!
- Nov. 29 - First Sunday of Advent—wear purple, light the candle and get ready!

Youth Ministry (grades 6 - 12)

After remembering (and sending care packages) to our post-high school friends at college, United Youth started planning worship for the 4th Sunday of Advent (Dec. 20) with a focus on hope. This month, we'll continue sharing ideas and getting ready—and also help lead November worship.

- Nov. 1 - All Saints Day
- Nov. 8 - **Youth Group** – Develop Advent Reflections on Hope.
- Nov. 15 - **Youth Group** – Develop 4th Advent – and possible field trip?
- Nov. 22 - Thanks-Singing Sunday – Join with the whole congregation in singing thanks!
- Nov. 29 - 1st Advent – **Youth Group**



Care and Concern

Prayers for Wisdom, Courage, and Compassion. . .

- For ourselves and the leaders of our nation and all nations.

Prayers of Thanks for:

- **The Stewardship/Finance Ministry and Parish Life Ministry Teams**, organizing this fall's Stewardship work and especially the Sunday, November 15, "Burrito Brunch" for the whole church.

Prayers for New Life for:

- **Deborah Dungan**, who joined United on September 29. (We'll receive new members again on Nov. 8. Please let Talitha Arnold or Diane Darby know if you're interested in joining.)

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- **Louise Cavatta**, whose sister-in-law died in Tucson; **Avril and Jim Ekstrand**, following the death of Avril's mother in Ireland.
- **Danna and Lee Armstrong**, as Danna is under Hospice care at home; **Evan and Joan Bauer**, as Evan continues at Mayo Clinic; **Maggie Bannerman**, recovering from a broken elbow.
- Persons dealing with cancer and those who love and care for them: **Shauna Wilbanks, Greg Gaertner, Jim Ashby** (Sarah Sawtell's brother), **Pope Leo XIV**, and persons with ongoing health issues: **Kurt Burk and Ken Latz**, with a severe autoimmune situation; **Jan McGough**, on 3-day/week dialysis; **Leonard Stovall, Mary Deane Lynn, Helen McCabe, Carol Ingells, Brooke Roberts**, and others.
- Families, couples, and individuals going through divorce and other difficult times.
- Persons dealing with memory loss and those who love and care for them: **Natalie Wells and Jim Mills** (Kingston); **Sandra Johnson** (Faye Granieri's mother); **Rev. Christine Vogel** and her husband **Paul**; **Linda Knapp, Rev. Roger Knapp** (Montecito); **Kathy Flynn** (Sierra Vista); and others.
- Persons in assisted living: **Sylvia Ortega** (Tammie Ortega's mother), **Ray & Nancy Lutz** (Legacy), **Ann Noss** (El Castillo), **JoAnn Bolleter**'s mother.
- Persons living with Parkinson's or other neurological conditions (**Msgr. Jerome Martinez**, and others).
- Individuals and families dealing with mental health and/or addiction issues. (If you or someone you love is struggling emotionally, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988) provides 24/7, free, confidential support.)
- Persons with families in other countries: **Blanca Surgeon** (Honduras), **Maria Navarette** and **Destiny Muñoz** (El Salvador), **Joohee Rand** (Korea), **John Walker** (Scotland), **Kim Zeilik** (son in Spain), **Leslie Fagre** and **Eric Poppele** (Jasper and family in England), **the Darby Family** (Makayla in Prague), **Larry and Nyla Rasmussen** (daughter-in-law's family in Colombia), **Dana and David Cagle** (daughter in Italy), **Corrine Jones** (Ali in London, **Luci** in Rome).
- The people—especially immigrants and persons of color—of **Santa Fe** and other cities and towns dealing with ICE raids, and those held in ICE detention centers and dealing with inedible food and lack of medical care.
- Prayers for the people of **Mexico and the U.S.** in the wake of devastating hurricanes; continued prayers for the people of **Iran, Gaza, and the rest of the Middle East, Nigeria, Sudan, Ukraine, Central America**, and other places impacted by war; refugees who have fled their homes in war zones; people seeking asylum from violence; policymakers who determine their fate; the **Congo** and other countries impacted by the Ebola virus.
- Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation.
- Prayers of care and commitment for those with major **increases in health care costs or reduction of support from SNAP, USAID, Medicaid or Medicare**, or who are unhoused or are persons of color, LGBTQI+ or female.

Prayer Chain Keeps Others in Prayer

United has an email prayer chain of people who have offered to hold others in prayer, particularly in difficult times. If you would like to be part of it, please let us know. (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

Congregational Care November On Call:

John Shaffer: 814-336-9353

Outreach

LOVE GOD, NEIGHBOR, CREATION

Outreach Opportunities – Thank you!

Go online to unitedchurchofsantafe.org or send a check to 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe NM 87505.

LOVE NEIGHBOR!



Clothing and Blanket Drive

Join in United's Fall Clothing and Blanket Drive for new and gently used jackets, sweaters, hats, mittens, and warm blankets. They'll be distributed St Elizabeth and Casa Familia Shelters, Interfaith Community Resources, and Nava Elementary School. Financial donations are also welcome, either by check or at unitedchurchofsantafe.org. (Please memo: Clothing/Blankets.) Spread the word, too, to your neighbors and friends about United's "Keeping Our Neighbors Warm" drive. Using the Church as a central clearing house makes donating easy! Thank you!!

Tour Santa Fe's Food Depot

Tuesday, Nov. 10 – 9:30 a.m.

Last year, The Food Depot's hunger-relief programs and partner agencies distributed *10 million pounds* of food across Northern New Mexico. Join United's tour of the Depot on Tuesday, Nov. 10 and find out how they do it! (And what we can do to help.) Sign up at church or at 505-988-3295.

Compassionate Christmas Gifts Market

Starts Sunday, Nov. 29 through Dec. 20

In the true spirit of Christmas, choose United's *Compassionate Christmas Gifts* that give hope, care, and joy all around the world. The market starts Nov. 29 after both Sunday services. Gifts include blankets for refugees, children's "comfort backpacks," gift cards for families in need, legal services for immigrants, and more. Watch for more info!

United's Shelter Supper Ministries

Offer Food and Care

United provides supper (meatloaf, veggie casserole, salad, dessert) monthly to St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Shelters. Want to help? Come to "Chop and Grate" Friday, Nov. 19 (9:00 am), deliver food to shelters that afternoon or make meatloaf at home. Contact Cathy Garrett (cathygarrett1@gmail.com) for info. Your financial support also helps! By check (memo: shelter meals), online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org (click "Donate Now"), or scan the QR code.



LOVE CREATION!

Compost Collection—It's a Miracle!

Reunity Resources turns food waste, meat scraps, garden clippings, etc. into life-giving compost. Get compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, and put in green bin in back of church. Also ... please use compost bins throughout the church for paper plates, cups, napkins. Thanks!

Offset Your Carbon Use in Holiday Travel

United's "Carbon Offset Program" helps plant trees and change policies to address climate change. Track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours, then donate thru United to our partners Santa Fe Watershed Assoc. and NM Interfaith Power & Light. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

BUILDING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Campaign for United 2027

All Church Burrito Brunch

Sunday, Nov. 15 (after both services)



We have a lot to celebrate at United! A strong, growing community for all ages. Worship that strengthens and feeds us. Music that blesses us. Opportunities to grow in faith and understanding. Multiple ways to care for our neighbors and God's creation.

And like every community, we have some challenges, too, especially financially in these times. On Sunday, Nov. 15, we'll come together to share good food and fellowship—and make our 2027 financial pledges for United's life and ministry.

Your pledge makes lots of things possible. Most of all, your pledge makes **hope** possible, now and in the future.

When your Table Host calls to invite you to the Nov. 15 brunch, say yes! And when you pray about your pledge for United's ministry and future, please be open to God's abundant, life-giving, **hope-filled** Spirit. Thank you!

Adult Faith Formation

ADULT FORUMS — Sundays at 11:15 am



November 1 – *Who's in Your Cloud? Saints We Have Known and Loved*

The Bible tells of the “great cloud of witnesses” whose faith and hope have helped us keep the faith, too. On this All Saints Sunday, who has blessed your life? Taught you about the faith? Stood by you in good times and hard? This special forum is a time to remember our “saints” – and learn about the saints of others. All welcome!

November 8 – Two Forums

When the Holidays Are Different

For all their joy, Thanksgiving and the Christmas season can be challenging, especially after a death, divorce, or other loss. They're also hard if we can't meet our children's—or others'—expectations. Join in this discussion and get resources to prepare for this holiday season.

The Church's Budget: What's in It—and Where Does It Come from?

United's volunteer Stewardship and Finance Team share how United's budget supports our values as a church—where the money goes and where it comes from. All welcome!

November 15 – *All Church Brunch(es) (after both services)*

Food, fellowship, fun, new friends – that's all part of the All Church Brunch this Stewardship Sunday. We'll also have special activities for children and youth. Plan to join in!

November 22 – *Welcome United's Newest Members*

Get acquainted with United members who joined the last three years. It's a chance to learn what brought them to United and to share your experiences and hopes for our church as we grow together. All welcome!

November 29 – *Advent Workshop for All Ages* All welcome!

GROUPS AND GATHERINGS

It's Not Too Late to Join!

Wednesday Women's Study Group

November 4 and 18 (10:00 am)

We read *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt and begin *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. All welcome! Info: Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, mommorton@gmail.com) or Jenn Wynne (817-219-0707; home@wynnes.us).



Pretty Good Guys

Books That Didn't Make It into the Bible

Wednesday, Nov. 11 (10:30 to 12:00)

The Acts of Thomas, The Gospel of James, The Gospel of Mary. The Christian Bible as we know it wasn't assembled until the 4th century. Why were books left out? Or included? All men welcomed to join in the conversation. Info/register at:

unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.



Moses and Jesus Go to the Movies

Renesan Series with Talitha Arnold

10:00 am Thursdays – Nov. 12 & 19

Throughout our history, American authors and movie directors have drawn upon both Jewish and Christian scriptures for themes, plots, and scenes. Through short readings, film clips, and visual art, Talitha Arnold explores the impact of ancient sacred texts on U.S. movies, particularly Melville's *Moby Dick* and Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. Info/Registration: renesan.org/moses-and-jesus-go-to-the-movies/.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE

The United Church of Santa Fe invites you to join us as we grow in faith and hope. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, a progressive and inclusive Christian tradition that emphasizes freedom of thought and belief as well as a commitment to “Love God, Neighbor, and Creation.” As Christians, we are many individual members, each with different gifts to offer and contributions to make. We are also one body in Christ, members of one another.

As an expression of the practice and conviction of this congregation, we declare ourselves to be an “open and affirming church,” welcoming people who share a faith journey with Christ and who share with us the covenant that binds us together regardless of age, gender, race and ethnic background, mental or physical disability, or sexual orientation. We welcome you!

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICES OFFERED

United Church is also United (in-person and online) Church! We offer the **10:00 am Sunday service in-person** and **also livestreamed online** (access it on United’s website: unitedchurchofsantafe.org).

We also offer an 8:30 am Contemplative Communion Service. For more information about United’s programs, please call 505-988-3295, send an email to unitedchurchsf@gmail.com, or go to our website. Thank you!